(b) whether this policy has been implemented;

(c) the number of applications received under the new policy and the number of the applications on which the action has already been completed; and

(d) whether the action is completed within a time frame, and if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) New transfer guidelines have come into force *w.e.f.* 19.1.2005. The transfer guidelines have been given *vide* publicity and also hosted on the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan website. Transfers will now be effected against clear vacancies. In the event of non-availability of vacancies, need based creation of vacancies will be resorted to accommodate the request of those who are covered under the medical grounds, death of spouse within a period of 2 years from the date of death, individuals having less than 3 years to retire and those who have completed their prescribed period of stay of 2 years at very hard or 3 years at hard station/North Eastern Region/Andaman/Sikkim.

(b) to (d) Around 11,250 applications have been received after new transfer guidelines came into affect. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan i.as informed that annual transfers would be made during the summer vacations.

Shortage of students in rural areas

4097. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the National Rural Teachers Conference, it is clear that the shortage of students that seems to worry the teachers the most in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that most of the parents in the rural areas are not interested in sending their wards to schools; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Shikshak Palak Sangh

† 4098. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Madhya Pradesh Government to increase the Centre's share in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan from 75 per cent to 90 per cent besides providing money for training of 'Shikshak Palak Sangh';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Government's response thereto; and

(d) if Government's response is in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Madhya Pradesh Government for 100% Central support under Sarva Skiksha Abhiyan (SSA) or alternatively for changing the Centre-State funding pattern to 90:10 during the Tenth Plan and 85:15 pattern thereafter.

Training of Community organisation/members is part of the approvals given to Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) of Madhya Pradesh under SSA and funds allocated as per norms.

(c) and (d) Centre-State funding patterns are within the preview of the Planning Commission of India.

Cooperation with Afghanistan in Media and Information

4099. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed an MoU with Afghanistan on media and information;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.